Kindly amend the following claims as indicated:

11. (Amended) An orally administrable solid pharmaceutical composition, in [solid] dosage form [formulated for oral administration and prepared by direct compression or granulation], comprising at least one, orally administrable, active ingredient compressed or granulated together with [and] at least one [low melting] wax, having a melting point of about 30°C to 40°C, wherein said orally administrable solid has the properties of:

C1

not releasing said active ingredient to any substantial extent in an oral cavity of an ingestor,

melting in a region of an ingestor's gastrointestinal tract, other than an oral cavity, having a temperature of about 30 to about 40°C, and

releasing said active ingredient in said region of melting whereby enhancing gastrointestinal absorption of said active ingredient in said region[, wherein the nature and proportion of ingredients is sufficient to increase the rate at which said active ingredient is absorbed in an intestine, and to sustain the release of said active ingredient as compared to the absorption rate and release rate of said active ingredient in an otherwise similar composition and form but in the absence of said wax].

17. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 11 wherein the [low-melting] wax is at least one glyceride of a long-chain fatty acid.

C2

18. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 11 wherein the [low-melting] wax comprises [hard fat based on] at least one glyceride of a fatty acid having 12 to 18 carbon atoms.

19. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 11 wherein said composition comprises about [0.1% to 80%] 20 to 30% by weight of said [low-melting] wax, and less than 70% by weight of said active ingredient.

Kindly add the following claims:

--36. (New) An orally administrable solid pharmaceutical composition, in dosage form, consisting essentially of at least one orally administrable, active ingredient compressed or granulated together with at least one wax having a melting point of about 30°C to 40°C; wherein said orally administrable solid composition has a proportion of ingredients that prevents it from substantial dissolution or melting in an oral cavity.

--37. (New) A pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 36 is in the form of at least one selected from the group consisting of tablets, capsules, granules, microcapsules and dragees.

--38. (New) A pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 36 further comprising at least one member selected from the group consisting of a binder, a glidant, a lubricant and any other excipient.

C3

--39. (New) A pharmaceutical composition for oral administration according to claim 36 in the form of a tablet.

--40. (New) A pharmaceutical composition for oral administration according to claim 36 in the form of microspheres.

--41. (New) A pharmaceutical composition for oral administration according to claim 36 in the form of capsules.

--42 (New) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 36 wherein the low-melting wax is at least one glyceride of a long-chain fatty acid.

--43. (New) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 36 wherein the low-melting wax is a hard fat based on at least one glyceride of a fatty acid having 12 to 18 carbon atoms.

--44. (New) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 36 wherein said composition consists essentially of about 0.1% to 80% by weight of said low-melting wax.

--45. (New) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 36 wherein said wax comprises a plurality of waxes at least some of which have different melting points, in at least one wax melts within the range of 30°C to 40°C, and wherein said combination of waxes is sufficient in formulation and amounts to impart sustained rate of release of said active compound.

C3 cont'd

--46. (New) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 36 containing proportion of said wax that is sufficient to protect molecules that are sensitive to low pH against degeneration as a result of contact with gastric fluid.

--47. (New) A pharmaceutical composition formulated for oral administration according to claim 36 prepared by a granulation process.

--48. (New) A pharmaceutical composition formulated for oral administration according to claim 36 containing a surfactant.

--49. (New) A pharmaceutical composition formulated for oral administration according to claim 36 wherein said proportion and composition of said wax is sufficient to protect proteins and peptides from being degraded by a proteolytic in an intestinal lumen.

REMARKS

Continued consideration of the patentability of the claims of the instant patent application is solicited in view of the above amendments and the following comments. It is believed that the extension of time and fee filed herewith is sufficient to maintain the pendency of this application. However, if a further extension is required to maintain the pendency of this application, kindly consider this to be a petition therefore. If any additional fee is due, kindly charge the same to the undersigned attorneys' deposit account 07-1337.